

**STATE INTERAGENCY COORDINATING COUNCIL (ICC)
ON EARLY INTERVENTION**

MEETING MINUTES

FRIDAY, March 23, 2001

Embassy Suites Hotel

El Segundo, Los Angeles County

ICC MEMBERS PRESENT

Raymond M. Peterson, M.D., Chair

Patricia Aguiar, DSS

Gwen Aldridge, DADP

Valerie Charlton, M.D., DHS

Arleen Downing, M.D.

Walter Olsen, Jr., Ed.D., CDE

Marie Kane Poulsen, Ph.D.

Martha Sanchez

Cheri Schoenborn, DDS

ICC MEMBERS ABSENT

Livia Faure-Gault

Nancy Lee, DOI

Elaine Fogel Schneider, Ph.D.

Sharon Tettegah, Ph.D.

CALL TO ORDER

Raymond M. Peterson, M.D., Chair, called the meeting to order at 8:25 a.m.

INTRODUCTIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

ICC members, community representatives, staff, and members of the audience provided self-introductions. Dr. Peterson announced he had received the resignation of ICC Community Representatives Cindy Venuto, Sharon Gould and Betsy Katz. Applications are available from Barbara Ferreira for anyone interested in becoming an ICC Community Representative. The May ICC Meeting will be held at the Radisson Hotel in San Diego and the July ICC Meeting will be at the Radisson Hotel in Sacramento.

Letters and ICC Certificates of Appreciation were sent to those Community Representatives that recently have resigned. A request was made to acknowledge past ICC Members and Community Representatives. Names of individuals to be acknowledged should be sent to Dr. Peterson. Dr. Peterson read the letters received from DDS in response to the technical assistance paper on *Children with Chronic Illness or Fragile Health Conditions: A Clarification of Eligibility* endorsed by the ICC and the recommendations for the *California Early Start Strategic Plan for Comprehensive Child Find and Public Awareness (2001 – 2003)*, attached.

Cheri Schoenborn announced that the Governor has proclaimed March as Early Start Month. The ZERO TO THREE Conference will be in San Diego November 30, through December 2, 2001, at the Sheraton Harbor Island Hotel. Diane Kellegrew has been awarded a fellowship from the ZERO TO THREE Foundation. Wally Olsen announced that the Council for Exceptional Children Conference would be held in Boston on December 2-5, 2001.

AGENDA

The agenda was approved as presented.

APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER ICC MINUTES

Marie Poulsen moved to approve the minutes with the following corrections:

On page 10, delete the last sentence beginning with "It was decided . . ."

On page 15, after the action item # 1 change "2001" to "2003"

On page 17, in the first paragraph, second sentence, replace "were for" with "included"

The motion was seconded and carried.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Dr. Peterson reported on the OSEP/NECTAS National Meeting he attended in Washington D.C in February along with other Part C representatives from California: Kate Warren, Parent; Cheri Schoenborn, DDS; Virginia Reynolds on behalf of CSPD and Early Start Provider Training; and Wally Olsen. The highpoint of the conference was the plenary session presentation by Jack Shonkoff entitled: "From Neurons to Neighborhoods: The Science of Early Childhood Development." Jack Shonkoff is the Chairman of the Committee on Integrating the Science of Early Childhood Development, for the Institute of Medicine and the National Research Council of the National Academy of Science.

STAFF REPORT

Cheri Schoenborn reported that the Governor's proclamation of March 2001, as Early Start Month was announced at the Family Resource Center Network Conference held on February 26-27, 2001. Bobbi Pooley, Early Start Liaison, will be leaving DDS in April, she will be working for CDE. Ken Freedlander is recruiting to fill his three vacant liaison positions, a research analyst position, and the secretary position in his Early Start Community Program Section.

Barbara Ferreira reported that the next meeting will be at the Radisson Hotel in San Diego May 17-18, 2001. Reservations are to be made directly with the hotel by April 23rd in order to receive the State rate of \$84.00 plus tax. Please identify yourself as a participant of the Department of Developmental Services' ICC Meeting. The cancellation policy is 24 hours prior to arrival date.

Ms. Ferreira requested all minutes and agenda items to be submitted to her for inclusion in the next ICC packet by March 30, 2001. She also reminded everyone to submit travel claims in a timely manner.

FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER NETWORK OF CALIFORNIA (FRCN of CA) REPORT

Patty Moore reported that the FRCN met on Wednesday with participants representing the geographical diversity of the entire State of California from the far northern counties, central coast, eastern mountains, and the borders. There was a presentation by Terry Boisot, a parent representative of the California Alliance of Inclusive Communities. She invited the members of the FRCN of CA to become active and encourage family members of young children to become aware of and educated in options for supported community living for adult children with disabilities. Ms. Boisot requested participation and support from the FRCN of CA in the planning of "THE CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY IMPERATIVE: A TURNING POINT CONFERENCE, to be held January 25-26, 2002, in Oakland.

The 3rd Annual FRCN of CA Conference was a huge success with nearly 250 participants. Planning for the 4th Annual Conference is underway with tentative location plans for the San Diego area.

The Family Voices of CA is now an official chapter of National Family Voices. Five members of the Family Voices of CA chapter traveled to Washington, D.C. for three days of training and visiting legislative representatives on Capitol Hill. There will be a "We Can Do It" conference at the Sierra Health Foundation in Sacramento on March 30, 2001, focusing on health care for children with special health care needs.

Currently there are a number of legislative bills related to disability, family and children services. SB 511 is of significant importance as it relates to the funding of Parent Empowerment Centers for families who have children birth to age 22. The FRCN of CA also provided input to local and state Children and Families Commission on the Child Care Inclusion Specialist Project.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE (COTW)

The Committee continued the discussion on foster care. The foster care issue and meeting format for the COTW will continue for the next two meetings. Pat Aguiar agreed to continue to facilitate the meeting presentations. The ICC will continue to discuss what recommendations on the foster care issue they will develop.

PUBLIC AWARENESS COMMITTEE (PAC)

Martha Sanchez reported on a very busy committee meeting. The PAC identified the Media Kit as a high priority project to be discussed by the committee this year. They discussed ideas for dissemination of the recommendations submitted to DDS for the Strategic Plan for Comprehensive Child Find and Public Awareness. The PAC would like to be a part of the review process for the personnel recruitment brochure to be developed by DDS. An orientation packet and mentoring program was discussed for new ICC Members and Community Representatives. DDS reported that the PSA will be released as soon as the Spanish version is ready. Also, the next edition of the Early Start Connections newsletter will feature natural environments. The Central Directory is printed and ready for dissemination. The Annual Report will be an Action Item for the May meeting.

QUALITY ASSURANCE, PROGRAM AND PERSONNEL STANDARDS COMMITTEE (QAPPS)

Marie Poulsen reported on the interim Early Start monitoring and verification subcommittee meeting to address some of the differences between CDE and DDS monitoring processes. CDE's process is less focused on programmatic issues and more on specific case record reviews. It also addresses children from birth up through young adulthood. The DDS joint monitoring process includes programmatic and systematic issues requiring technical assistance. Areas identified for further discussion were:

- Coordination of dates between the DDS joint and CDE focused process to avoid review redundancy, also the need to share information on which districts are to be verified next year – all in an effort to minimize staff time.
- Need to clearly identify the differences of purposes (system vs. child focus) in the two types of monitoring and joint use of data.
- Better distribution and yearly sharing of findings between LEAs and regional centers including general supervision and monitoring responsibilities of the districts in relation to system related and student-related findings.
- Align evaluation instruments when possible.
- Review language in the state interagency agreement between DDS and CDE for consistency to ensure joint responsibility for compliance and technical assistance and sanctions for repeated non-compliance.
- Stratification of chart review samples in DDS joint process in order to have more targeted results. Stratify by the following: 1) children served only by a regional center, 2) children with solely low incidence conditions served only by the LEA, and 3) children dually served by a regional center and LEA.

The committee will address the complaint and mediation process at the next meeting. The committee voiced concerns that Early Start is not adequately addressed in the Service Delivery Reform (SDR) draft report and that there is a need to keep SDR on the radar screen especially for personnel standards.

HEALTH SYSTEMS COMMITTEE (HSC)

Arleen Downing announced that the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) has determined that a considerable body of evidence does not support a relationship between the Measles, Mumps, Rubella vaccine and Autism. A detailed report will be published in May. The AAP continues to support the 2001 immunization schedule.

Dr. Hickman of DDS provided information on the Autism Collaborative Initiative between DDS and the MIND Institute. The project is looking for consensus on state of the art assessment and eligibility determination for all regional centers. Two thousand children are expected to be in the study.

The committee is proposing the following recommendation for Vision Screening:
INTENT:

1. Child Health and Disability Prevention (CHDP) vision screen or equivalent, and
2. Evaluation by or under authority/responsibility/supervision of primary care healthcare provider.

MECHANISM:

1. CHDP Exam – results to DDS/CDE (training of primary healthcare provider regarding records needed);
2. If exam/record not available within 45 days, initial assessment by qualified professional (licensed healthcare provider or visually impaired credential):
 - a) Vision assessment by trained licensed healthcare provider/visually impaired credential per CDE guidelines,
 - b) Vision assess by trained licensed healthcare provider per “DDS guidelines”, and
 - c) Vision assess by trained healthcare provider per CHDP provider;
3. Results from the CHDP exam or initial assessment by qualified professional as described under #2 above should be sent to primary healthcare provider for:
 - a) Follow-up of child exam if needed, and
 - b) Report back to regional center/SELPA;
4. Data Collection and follow-up to evaluate screening process – evaluation by DDS/CDE combined monitoring team; and
5. If no primary care provider, child gets referral to primary care provider.

This will be reviewed again at the May meeting before being presented as a formal recommendation as an ICC action item.

The committee strongly supports having a special training component dedicated to health related issues as part of future training curriculum provided by DDS and WestEd/CEITAN in the Advanced series of the Service Coordinator Institutes.

The updated Guidelines for Families and Children with Special Health Care Needs, Health Care Connections was provided by Mara McGrath. It is produced by the Bay Area Family Health Links funded through the State Council on Developmental Disabilities. The committee recommended that copies be sent to all the regional centers, early start service coordinators, and SELPAs. Cheri Schoenborn requested copies for the Service Coordinator Trainings. Beverly Morgan-Sandoz requested 60 copies for the statewide Early Head Start Programs. The guidelines do not have copyright and may be duplicated.

The committee also discussed Mental Health Issues and how to get CHDP approval for addressing social and emotional problems. The priorities for the year were discussed as well as the health status issues on the IFSP. The purpose or function of the Health Systems Committee was discussed and it was determined that health issues should be addressed in Early Start. The committee acknowledges that health issues are much improved and are being addressed. It is the intent of the committee that health status be addressed in the IFSP and that all service coordinators have training in health status assessment. The service coordinator should be of assistance in finding licensed health care professionals in completing the health status review if needed. The committee requested a presentation from Ken Freedlander at the next HSC meeting on how the monitoring of health status has been conducted in the last three or four monitoring visits and what the findings were. The issue on assistive devices was tabled until the next meeting.

FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES COMMITTEE (FSSC)

Pat Aguiar reported that the meeting was well attended. At the next meeting there will be several presentations from the local area on Early Start to be arranged by Sherry Torok. At yesterday's meeting the local presenters were:

- Beverly Morgan-Sandoz, who introduced Early Head Start in Los Angeles County, reported that in the Early Head Start programs, at least 10% of the enrolled children served must be children with disabilities. LA County Early Head Start programs are interested in collaborating with the regional centers in the county. Ms. Morgan-Sandoz emphasized the challenge of serving families that are in locked treatment facilities;
- Letha Sellars of the San Gabriel-Pomona Regional Center, who reported they have developed an interagency agreement with the School District and fund specialty services and
- Constance Marine who reported on Program for Infant Toddler Caregivers (PITC), the stipend program, and regional trainers that provide infant-toddler training at low or no cost for child care provider groups.

The committee would a letter sent to the Child Care Community from Dr. Peterson with information about the ICC and inviting them to become involved in the FSSC.

PUBLIC INPUT

1. Jean Brunelli provided information on the Infant Development Association Conference.
2. Mindy Newhouse, Speech/Language Pathologist, vendor with Tri-Counties and North Los Angeles County Regional Centers had several concerns. Among them were:
 - Inconsistency in understanding the payor of last resort,
 - Qualifications of service providers,
 - Reimbursement rates for services in natural environments, and
 - Public Awareness about upcoming ICC meetings.
3. Beverly Morgan-Sandoz, Director of Early Head Start in Los Angeles County, addressed her vision of focus for Early Head Start (EHS): EHS be seen as the natural environment; an element of partnership between Early Start providers, EHS and the Hilton Special Quest Program; that there be models of training that would involve cross training of EHS, Early Start and staff involved with Hilton Special Quest; that the resources from Early Start are coordinated with the EHS Program; and that families receiving EHS services be linked into the regional center/family resource center network.

ACTION ITEM:

1. Revised ICC Agenda
Following considerable discussion, this item was deferred to the next meeting.

LEAD AGENCY REPORT – DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES (DDS)

Cheri Schoenborn reported that she attended a session on Part C monitoring while at the National Meeting, and noted that California is doing well in meeting the continuous improvement goals. Our State's Continuous Improvement Plan was approved and we are now waiting for approval of the verification material submitted to OSEP. There is still no word on the proposed changes to the Part C regulations that were released in September 2000, for public input.

The monitoring and site visit schedule will be revised when Ken Freedlander has his new staff on board. The Department has agreed to look at identifying a group of parent and FRC representatives to become ongoing participants in the Monitoring Team as consultants. The SEEDS and other national models will be reviewed as models for this process.

Ms. Schoenborn reviewed the work of the Service Delivery Reform (SDR) Committee over the past 2 ½ years. The committee is comprised of consumers, family members, service providers, advocates, regional center staff and members from the ICC. The legislative mandate to DDS was to reform rates for residential services and develop an outcome based performance measurement system for residential services and for supportive living services, respite and day programs (including infant development programs). The Department released a draft report to the SDR Committee on March 5, 2001 requesting input and attendance at a March 15th meeting. At the March 15th meeting, the report was reviewed and next steps discussed. Additional time was requested by the SDR committee to allow them to provide written input on the draft report. The draft report represents the findings of the various committees and presents the overall values and principles of SDR. It has set personal outcomes for consumers and their families and has set a framework for an Outcome Based Performance Accountability Process. This process would include performance measures, performance models, and service requirements and personnel and program standards. The residential rate model presented two rate platforms: 1) home and operations fixed costs, and 2) individual supports and services that would be provided to the consumers living in that home. The report acknowledges that it is not clear, at this time, how Early Start will fit into the overall proposal. Early Start services are very different from services provided to older consumers. Infant Develop Program employ personnel with higher personnel standards than other day program services for adult consumers. Ms. Schoenborn stated that there will be a continued need for input on SDR, not only from the ICC but also from the entire early intervention community. The Department will prepare a new draft report that will be released by May 15th for a 60-day public comment period. Copies of the report will be disseminated to the ICC's Quality Assurance Committee and will also be available on the DDS website (www.dds.ca.gov). The report will be shared with the legislature and control agencies to garner support to continue the SDR process. A final report will be issued in late July/August appending a summary of the input received. The next step for the residential rates would be the regulatory process. The second phase of SDR will look at day programs, which includes the vendored infant development programs. The Center for Health Policy Studies (CHPS) will look at the unique rate issues for these services and make recommendations on what the rate structures could be for those services to address all cost issues.

Ms. Schoenborn reported that over 200 attendees from a broad range of fields attended the Natural Environments Forum on March 8th and 9th in Burbank. The feedback was very good and responses encouraged DDS to hold additional forums in various locations throughout the

state. The Forum focused on the meaning of natural environment, which is ERRAPP (Everyday Routines, Relationships, Activities, Places and Partnerships). Models of mentoring are also being looked at by DDS as possible options for providing technical assistance to individual communities on the natural environment requirement.

The Service Coordinator Institute - Foundations will be held at the Burbank Hilton March 27-29, 2001. It will be repeated May 24-26, 2001 in South San Francisco. The advance training for service coordinators will be June 12-13, 2001 in Burbank. A Service Coordinator's Handbook to support the curriculum will be presented at these institutes. Copies will also be made available to ICC members. This handbook will be updated as needed and will allow the Service Coordinators to add community specific information.

The scholarship report for September 2000 to March 2001, will be added to minutes for inclusion in the next ICC packet.

As part of the technical assistance to the field, the Department will be disseminating the ICC recommendations on Clarifying Eligibility for Children with Chronic Illness or Fragile Health Conditions. The paper will also be used in future trainings around evaluation and assessments.

Ms. Schoenborn announced the availability of University of Montana early intervention classes via the Internet and provided a flyer with the information (attached).

DDS is working on the Annual Report for the ICC's review. A compilation of the past year's minutes will be sent to the committee chairs with a two-week turnaround for input into the Annual Report in order to allow the report to be an action item for the next ICC meeting. The report is due to the Office of Special Education Programs prior to access of the federal funds for the coming year. The Central Directory is printed and is available on the DDS website. Eight thousand copies were printed and are ready for dissemination.

Ms. Schoenborn indicated that she continues to attend the Prop 10 Commission's Diversity Advisory Committee Meetings. The next meeting is March 29th in Sacramento. Areas of special interest to the ICC community are the School Readiness Program and a potential project on inclusion services for child care. This project, if approved by the Commission, would provide funds to resource and referral agencies for child care inclusion referral specialists. The Commission has developed a new parent kit with the intent of distributing it to all new parents in California. DDS is looking to include Early Start information in the kit. The website for the California Children and Family's Commission is www.ccfcc.ca.gov. Kate Warren and Sharon Tettegah are two of the representatives that sit on the Diversity Advisory committee.

Ms. Schoenborn reported that work continues on the Memorandum of Understanding with Early Head Start. More information should be available at the May meeting. SB1096 authored by Senator Ortiz currently proposes to extend the definition of the age of infants and toddlers to age four, under the California Early Intervention Services Act. Another bill DDS is watching is SB511, which proposes to add Family Empowerment Centers on Disability to Education Code and would provide funding for family resource centers serving all ages of children and youth.

The Department will provide a brief report on the Complaint, Mediation and Due Process Filings at the May ICC meeting.

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (CDE)

Wally Olsen reported on the various activities of the Department over the past few months. He, too, attended the national meeting in Washington, D.C. and was impressed at how well California is doing in comparison to the other states. The Department is still recruiting to hire. Thirty-two positions have been filled to date. Several staff members attended the Natural Environments Forum and participated the California School Administrators Conference with a presentation on interagency agreements. Field service trainings have been conducted in Burbank, San Diego, Monterey and Fresno. Joint field trainings with the Department of Mental Health have been conducted in Redding, Yreka and Butte County. Dr. Olsen reported that he is actively involved with the Office of Criminal Justice Planning's Think Tank and a committee with the California Youth Authority.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES (DHS)

Valerie Charlton reported on the Childhood Asthma Initiative. Three locations have been awarded Asthma Services Grants of \$250,000 each for developing new approaches for Asthma treatment. They are: Council of Community Clinic in San Diego, the Asthma/Allergy Foundation of America, Southern Chapter in Los Angeles, and the Children's Hospital, Oakland. The goal of this initiative is to increase community awareness, approaches, and recognition in very young children and then to apply the new approaches for treatment. New Asthma Guidelines have been developed and will be disseminated by the Department. Families may contact their local CHDP programs for additional information or Nancy Snyder, Nurse Consultant, CHDP Branch at 916-654-0832.

The Department has taken on a large initiative dealing with overweight children in California. In the under 36-month category, 10 to 17% are in the 90 percentile as overweight. There are concerns regarding chronic disease in this category especially for diabetes.

Dr. Charlton will coordinate a presentation to provide an update on the Newborn Hearing Screening Program at the November ICC Meeting in Sacramento.

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES (DSS)

Pat Aguiar announced the appointment of Carolyn Ortiz to Chief, Office of Child Abuse Prevention. This office will be integrated into the Child Welfare Program. The Children Services Branch Chief, Dell Sayles Owen accepted an appointment at the Department of Alcohol and Drug Program to direct the Prop 36 Drug Treatment Program. Ms. Aguiar distributed a handbook from the Center for Families and Children and the Courts through the Judicial Council of California. Calendars on "Waiting Children" were also made available to the attendees. The Governor has proclaimed May as Foster Care Awareness Month. There will be celebrations on Saturday, May 12th in Long Beach and Sacramento concurrently. A flyer will be placed in the next packet. The Child Welfare Stakeholders Meeting will be May 10-11, 2001 in Anaheim. Registration forms will be mailed shortly. She reported on a historic event that occurred during the first week of February - a joint hearing between the Assembly Human Services Committee and the Assembly Judiciary Committee on the issue of foster care. The Department is tracking approximately 40 bills of major substance on child welfare.

OTHER BUSINESS

None

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 p.m.